

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PANAMA 02299 061853Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SAB-02 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 ACDA-12 OMB-01
TRSE-00 /080 W
-----021106 061855Z /41
O 061818Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6421

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PANAMA 2299

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, PN
SUBJECT: CIRCULAR LETTER OF GENERAL TORRIJOS TO HEADS OF
GOVERNMENT

REF: HAAHR/GONZALEZ TELCON APRIL 5

1. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF TEXT OF
LETTER FROM GENERAL TORRIJOS TO BRITISH PRIME MINISTER.
LETTER IS DATED MARCH 24 BUT WAS HANDED TO BRITISH
AMBASSADOR FOR DELIVERY ON APRIL 6. WE HAVE CONFIRMATION
THAT IDENTICAL LETTER WAS DELIVERED TO AT LEAST ONE
EUROPEAN EMBASSY TODAY:

" MR. PRIME MINISTER:

" ON MARCH 16 OF THIS YEAR THE SENATE OF THE UNITED
STATES GAVE ITS APPROVAL BY A VOTE OF 68 TO 32 TO THE
TREATY OF PERMANENT NEUTRALITY AND OPERATION OF THE
PANAMA CANAL. THE SENATE INCLUDED, AS PART OF THE
REFERENCED TREATY, THE STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING RACHED
BETWEEN OURSELVES AND PRESIDENT CARTER ON OCTOBER 14, 1977.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PANAMA 02299 061853Z

"THIS STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING GAVE TO BOTH
COUNTRIES THE ABILITY TO DEFEND THE CANAL AGAINST
THREATS AND AGGRESSIONS TO THE CANAL INCLUDING (THREATS)
TO THE PEACEFUL TRANSIT OF VESSELS THROUGH THE CANAL.
THE REFERENCED STATEMENT, INCORPORATED BY THE SENATE
IN THE NEUTRALITY TREATY WITH OUR PREVIOUS ASSENT,
EXPRESSES THE FOLLOWING:

(THERE FOLLOWS EXCERPT OF LEADERSHIP AMENDMENT
TO ARTICLE IV STARTING WITH "THIS DOES NOT MEAN, NOR SHALL IT
BE INTERPRETED....).

"THE PRINCIPLES CONTAINED IN THE STATEMENT
DESCRIBED ABOVE DERIVE FROM THE MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF THE
EXISTENCE OF GENERALLY ACCEPTED NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW
WHICH ARE EFFECTIVELY CONSECRATED IN MULTILATERAL INTER-
NATIONAL AGREEMENTS. EXAMPLES WHICH CAN BE CITED ARE THE CHARTER
OF THE UNITED NATIONS (ARTICLE II, PARAGRAPH 4); THE CHARTER OF
THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (ARTICLE XVIII) AND THE
INTERAMERICAN TRATY OF RECIPROCAL ASSISTANCE (ARTICLE I).

"DESPITE THE REFERENCED STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING AND THE
RECOGNIZED PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, THE DOCUMENT OF
RATIFICATION WHICH STATES THE FOLLOWING:

(DECONCINI RESERVATION QUOTED IN FULL)

"TO DETERMINE THE MEANING (ALCANCE) OF THIS AMENDMENT IT IS
SUFFICIENT, IN OUR JUDGMENT, TO TRANSCRIBE THE REASONS WHICH
SENATOR DECONCINI MADE IN SUPPORT OF HIS PROPOSAL:

(HERE FOLLOWS EXTENSIVE EXTRACTS OF SENATOR DECONCINI'S
REMARKS IN THE SENATE ON MARCH 16.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PANAMA 02299 061853Z

"BECAUSE OF THE SUPPORT WHICH YOUR PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT HAVE
GIVEN TO THE PANAMANIAN CAUSE AND BECAUSE IN
ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE VII OF THE NEUTRALITY TRATY PANAMA AND
THE UNITED STATES ARE OPEN FOR ADHERENCE BY ALL THE STATES OF
THE WORLD TO THE OBJECTIVES OF SAID TREATY, WE HAVE CONSIDERED
IT OUR DUTY TO INFORM YOU OF THIS SITUATION ABOUT WHICH
WE HAVE LAREADY PUBLICLY EXPRESSED OUR DEEP CONCERN.

SOLIDARILY,
OMAR TORRIJOS HERRERA"

2. COPY POUCHED TO ARA/PAN.
JORDEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TREATY RATIFICATION, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT, GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES, NEUTRALISM, UPPER HOUSE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PANAMA02299
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780149-0403
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780486/aaaacumv.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: eb895cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3054393
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIRCULAR LETTER OF GENERAL TORRIJOS TO HEADS OF GOVERNMENT
TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, PINT, PN, US, UK, (TORRIJOS HERRERA, OMAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/eb895cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014